

The second reason I support this supplemental is, quite frankly, the situation in Iraq. There is no question Iraq is a potentially rich country, but it is not rich today. The oil revenues, the revenues that the people of Iraq generate from their hard labor and work need to be reinvested in Iraq and will be reinvested in Iraq. The reality is there is simply not enough wealth to be created to get the job done and to get the job done in a timely, expeditious way, a way that is good for Iraq and, frankly, in a time frame that makes it possible for our own people to leave as quickly as possible, which is what we want and what they want.

Finally, and most powerfully, I think I favor this resolution simply because I support our American troops that are on the ground there. We have asked a generation of young Americans to perform a dangerous and difficult task.

I serve on the Committee on Armed Services, Mr. Speaker; and every single military person that has come to visit with us has told us this is an important part of winning the war, securing the peace, and that these dollars, particularly spent on civilian projects and rebuilding and reconstruction in Iraq, enhance the security of American forces that are deployed. I want American troops to be looked upon as what they are: liberators and benefactors. I do not want them to be regarded as conquerors, occupiers, and exploiters; and I think the latter will be the case.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think this is a historic opportunity. All of us have a responsibility, I think, to do what previous generations of Americans have done: rise up, meet this challenge.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I just want to thank the gentleman for his leadership. He has not only spoken eloquently tonight, but I too heard the gentleman repeatedly in groups, caucuses, and organizations; and the gentleman is doing a fantastic job.

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, rather than closing, my colleague, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CHOCOLA), is here. I know he feels passionately about this. I guess we have 15 seconds left. The gentleman led his own Special Order on this issue last night, and I yield to the gentleman to close.

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much, and I think the fact that we only have 15 seconds left, we have had so many Members here tonight to tell the real story.

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, I do not think I have ever seen a Special Order with this many speakers.

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, the fact that we have so many Members who want to share the real story of Iraq I think speaks well, for the facts are that there is great hope, there is great optimism. Supporting the President's request is the right thing to do. We have one chance to get it right.

I thank the gentleman very much for hosting this evening's discussion.

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. It is clear to me that

we need to win over the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people. As our colleague, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MARSHALL), said from the other side of the aisle here tonight, we absolutely must have them on our side. This is the way to do it. I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting the President's full request.

COMMEMORATION OF THE 43RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF CYPRUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I actually did not come tonight to discuss Iraq or to respond to what my colleagues said on the Republican side, but I could not help but when one of my colleagues got up and showed that book bag and I think suggested that there were over a million Iraqi children that were going to receive that very nice book bag. I just could not help but think, well, what about all of the American children that went to school; I do not remember any of them getting a free book bag.

So part of the problem is that when the Republicans talk about all of these wonderful things that are going to be given to the Iraqis, they seem to forget that many of these things, whether it is education or health care needs, are not provided to our own citizens here in the United States.

But in any case, Mr. Speaker, this evening I want to mark the 43rd anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Cyprus. Since the end of 80 years of British rule in 1960, this remarkable island of Cyprus and its people have endured great hardships and great triumphs. Despite being divided for the past 29 years, Cypriots have not given up hope to one day see the end of the Turkish occupation and the reunification of the island. I recently traveled to Cyprus in August; and I firmly believe that all people, Greek, Turkish, Armenian and all of the inhabitants of the island, want to see the end of the intransigence of the Turkish leaders and greet each other as fellow citizens once again.

As we all know, Mr. Speaker, on July 20 of 1974, Turkey unilaterally invaded the sovereign nation of Cyprus, resulting in the ethnic cleansing of the northern third of the island of Greek Cypriots.

□ 1945

This action was, and continues to be, widely condemned by the international community. And dozens of U.N. resolutions have been passed about this illegal occupation. And the European Union has made it clear that Turkey's entrance into the European Union eventually will be based in part by its ability and willingness to settle the situation in Cyprus.

Now, I have to say many of us know that this past year there seems to have been an opportunity to reunify the island and even the Turkish occupation of the northern part of Cyprus because Cyprus, it was finally agreed, would enter the European Union on its own. In fact, the accession to the European Union is scheduled to take place next May in 2004. In April of this year the decision was finally made by the European Union to accept Cyprus as a member.

The United Nations under Secretary General Annan put together a plan for the reunification of Cyprus. And back in the early part of this year, there were negotiations between the Turkish occupied government in the northern part of Cyprus and the government in Nicosia, the Greek government which represent the entire island as well as the Turkish government. And we were hopeful that there would be some agreement on a reunification plan before the decision was made in April that Cyprus would join the European Union. It certainly made sense to have Cyprus join the European Union as a unified island. But unfortunately because of the intransigence by the Turkish-Cypriot leader, Ralph Denktash, those talks led to nowhere. And everyone agreed, not only the Secretary General of the U.N. but also our government agreed and specifically stated that the reason why the talks broke down and no unification plan under the auspices of the U.N. was adopted was because the leader of the Turkish Cypriots, Mr. Denktash, refused to budge and refused to effectuate any real negotiation according to the U.N. plan.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to share my outrage over a statement made by Mr. Denktash yesterday. Frustrated by the unity of the international community identifying him as the obstacle to reunification, he compared Secretary General Kofi Annan's plan for the reunification of Cyprus with the genocide committed by President Milosevic of Yugoslavia. Now, that is an outrage in itself. Here is the U.N. under the Secretary General trying to bring peace to a divided island, trying to reunify the island for all its people, and that is compared to the genocide by the President of Yugoslavia?

For Mr. Denktash, a man that has repeatedly flouted the will of the U.N. and his own citizenry, this ridiculous claim is, I think, the most egregious action that he has taken so far. It is not enough for him, it seems, to operate outside international norms; he must now accuse the U.N. of committing the worst of crimes against humanity.

Mr. Speaker, I sent a letter to Mr. Denktash today which I would insert into the RECORD.

OCTOBER 1, 2003.

Mr. RAUF DENKTASH,
Washington, DC.

Mr. DENKTASH: I was shocked to learn of your comments yesterday in an interview with the Anadolu Agency that compared United Nations Secretary General Kofi

Annan with indicted war criminal Slobadan Milosevic. This could not be further from the truth. Milosevic is accused of the worst of crimes against the ethnic Albanians, and Kofi Annan works tirelessly for the advancement of global truth and justice. In order to set the record straight, I ask that you issue an apology to the Secretary General and recommit yourself to the reunification process with Greek Cyprus.

Your statement clearly is not helpful to the reunification process of Cyprus. In sharp contrast, Greek Cypriot President Tassos Papadopoulos has proven to bend over backwards in order to move the talks forward. After the failure of the talks in March at The Hague, he did not waiver from his determination to arrive at a solution, stating that despite his "understandable sense of disappointment, we will not abandon our efforts for a Cyprus solution, which would be functional and viable."

It is also evident that you are not truly representing the will of your own citizenry. As you well know, tens of thousands of Turkish Cypriots protested in support of the U.N. plan for reunification with Greek Cyprus earlier this year. They demanded that they be given the same rights that are enjoyed by the Greek Cypriots, and reunite the country once again after 29 years of division. Your decision to open up the border to Cypriots on both sides for daily trips was a positive first step towards the cessation of tensions, but a first step is all it will remain if you do not return to the negotiating table.

A solution can still be reached in the Cyprus problem. You still have the chance to heed the advice of the international community and the demands of your own people. An apology regarding your recent comments about Kofi Annan, accompanied by a sincere commitment to the reunification talks, will go a long way for the people of Cyprus to have their country back.

Sincerely,

FRANK PALLONE, Jr.,
Member of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, in that letter I demanded that he apologize for his statement and recommit himself to the U.N. peace process. His behavior further demonstrates what Mr. Annan stated about how it was solely Mr. Denktash who was the reason why these reunification talks broke down. I would ask him to start up the reunification talks again. This is what should be done, not making these outrageous statements about the U.N.

HURRICANE ISABEL RECOVERY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, this evening I will be joined here by a number of my colleagues from not only North Carolina but from States along the east coast that were hit by Hurricane Isabel with devastating force several weeks ago, and a number of lives were lost, of course, as the storm made its way up the east coast through Virginia into the District of Columbia as it continued to move forward. And, of course, the amount of water that was dropped created flood conditions in

some parts of the east coast that they have not seen for a long time.

This evening, though, let me speak specifically about North Carolina and then we will cover some of the other issues. And my colleagues are going to join me in a few minutes. But I want to express my appreciation this evening, Mr. Speaker, to some hard-working folks who came to North Carolina really before the storm hit, from FEMA and the emergency management people in North Carolina, Under Secretary Beatty and Governor Easley, who really were planning in getting ready.

We had a lot of advance planning and time to get ready for the storm when it was a category 5. Unfortunately, no matter how well you plan, you cannot stop the wind damage, nor can you stop the tidal surge. And that is what created tremendous damage. We have roughly 400 FEMA workers in North Carolina as I speak this evening helping door to door.

I appreciate this opportunity to bring to my colleagues' attention in this House the issues as they relates to recovery costs from this devastating hurricane. I have to my right here a photograph of a road. You know, most of us think it hit the coast and that is where it ended. This was well inland. This really is a road here, and you see how it was washed out.

I want to turn, though, to the next photograph. And I am going to leave this up and refer to it from time to time. This is a small rural village, the county seat, of Hyde County. It is not in my district, but I have a lot of friends who live there. When I was State superintendent of schools, I spent time with my friends there. And this small town is under water, or was under water.

What is so sad and devastating about this situation is when Hurricane Floyd hit in 1999, they saw flooding, substantial flooding. They borrowed money through SBA and other sources and with the FEMA money razed their homes, did the things they needed to do. And now the whole town is flooded, not just part of it, the whole town.

And I could cite stories all over the East, and my colleagues are going to talk about more of those this evening, so I will let them join me in just a minute. But as it roared ashore on Thursday, September 18, I could not help but think that Hurricane Fran that hit in 1996 came on a Thursday, Hurricane Floyd which was the 500-year flood, came on a Thursday, it seems like Thursdays in September are not the kind of days in North Carolina when you have got a storm coming you want to look forward to.

But as this storm roared through North Carolina and into Virginia and Maryland, its effects were felt all the way up into West Virginia and Pennsylvania and finally ultimately in Canada. Although it lost its strength as it came inland, it was a huge storm. And the fury of this storm touched millions of people along the east coast. A lot of

folks were without power for a week. I was told today that finally, after now roughly almost 2 weeks, all the power is back on in North Carolina.

It destroyed homes, as I said. It destroyed whole towns, it flooded them, and it literally devastated crops. And I will talk about that more as the evening goes on with my colleagues.

And I am sorry to say that in North Carolina we lost five of our citizens as a result of this storm. And as is the case many times with a hurricane or storm that moves inland, we lose more lives from freshwater flooding than we do along the coast.

We asked our friends in North Carolina to send a photograph to us tonight to use to share with our colleagues, because many have seen the photographs or the things on TV as it relates to the Outer Banks and Hatteras and Ocracoke and others. This little small town is in a rural county; and, I dare say, no one has seen this photograph in Hyde County of Swan Quarter, a fishing village with some great people.

So far, 26 counties in North Carolina have been declared Federal disaster areas. And we just got word that the declaration may be extended to several more counties, and it should be. And I trust the people at FEMA will do it quickly. Because there is a lot of debris.

I talked this evening with a person who works for the State of North Carolina who works with our fishermen on the coast. And because of all the debris that has been washed on shore and clogged up the channels, many of our fishermen who would like to go out and earn a living, that even though the storm has passed, there is so much debris they cannot set the nets, their crab pots have been washed away. It is just devastating to their economic livelihood.

Preliminary damage estimates indicate, and these are only preliminary, the numbers will change, that North Carolina local governments have incurred more than \$55 million in damages, an assessment for individual losses thus far and is continuing to rise as those numbers come in.

This is a State, as I said earlier, that was hit with Hurricane Fran in 1996 that created untold hundreds of millions of dollars, actually in the billions of dollars, of damage, a devastating flood in 1999, ice storms et cetera. I will talk about that more later. 1.8 million acres of three of our State's most important crops were heavily damaged: peanuts, cotton, and soybeans. And the shame of it is it comes to one of the areas of my State where there is very little manufacturing. Agriculture is the lifeblood of many of these communities. And it comes less than 1 year after our farmers suffered one of the worst droughts that we have faced in a long, long time.

Sometimes those of us in North Carolina feel that our State has become a sort of disaster central. We get an awful lot of disasters. Some have said